

Serial No. 10/029,303
Amdt. dated September 22, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2003

Docket No. RPL-0024

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, Figures 1 and 2, the abstract and claims 2-4 are amended and claims 5-20 are added. Support for new claims 5-20 can be found in the specification including the original claims and the figures, for example, see Figure 3. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Drawing Objections

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the drawings and the enclosed Request for Approval of Drawing Amendments obviate the grounds for the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Minoru et al. (JP 10-283937) (hereinafter Minoru). Since Minoru fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Minoru appears to disclose a plasma display panel which includes a material containing black additives (RuO_2 , etc.) used as the bus electrodes 12a, 14a of X and Y electrode wires 12, 14 constituting a pair of display electrode wires and the bus

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electrodes 12a, 14a formed by screen printing. See Minoru abstract. Additionally, the bus electrodes 12a, 14a may be multilayered, in which case, e.g., by using a black metal material for the lower bus electrode and a light reflecting material layer for the upper bus electrode, the efficiency for utilizing light is enhanced to make higher contrast possible. See Minoru Abstract.

However, Minoru fails to disclose or suggest, as recited in claim 1, at least the feature of a light absorption layer for absorbing light of each fluorescent layer formed on the cell is provided on a side of each bus electrode directing the inside of the cell. Rather, the black metal material is used for the lower bus electrode, which as illustrated in Figure 3 of Minoru, on a side of each bus electrode directed toward the outside of the cell and not the inside of the cell, as claimed.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Minoru discloses a black metal material directed toward an outside of the cell, whereas the claimed invention claims a light absorption layer provided on a side of each bus electrode directing the inside of the cell.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable. Claim 4 depends from claim 1, and is allowable for at least for the same reasons, as well as its added features in the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Minoru. Since Minoru fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, from which claims 2 and 3 depend, Applicant respectfully submits that Minoru fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the claims. Additionally, claims 2 and 3 include features which are not disclosed or suggested by Minoru. Specifically, with respect to claim 2, Minoru fails to disclose or suggest a light absorption layer comprising ruthenium oxide (Ru₂O) and lead oxide, but rather discloses an Ag material containing black additives (RuO₂, etc.). See Minoru Abstract. Similarly, Minoru fails to disclose or suggest a light absorption layer comprising carbon, as claimed in claim 3. See Minoru Abstract.

For at least for the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as their added features and the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims 5-20

By this Amendment, claims 5-20 are added to the application. Claims 5-20 broadly recite features of the preferred embodiment(s). It is respectfully submitted that the new claims are allowable over the references of record at least for the reasons discussed above in connection

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with claims 1-4. Specifically, claims 8 and 15 are directed to sustain electrodes including features not disclosed in the cited art, and claims 5-7 depend from claim 1, claims 9-14 depend from claim 8, and claims 16-20 depend from claim 15.

V. Non-Final Rejection

As at least claim 1 has not been amended, Applicant respectfully requests that should a new reference be applied in a future action, such future action be made non-final.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Laura L. Lee**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Appendix